

MARINE BARRACKS
1800
WASHINGTON

PASS IN REVIEW

Serving "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

December 2002

Reaching for the Stars
Building on a 227-year legacy

INSIDE: MBW change of command, annual Oyster Bowl

Guidance for 'the lucky' -- *the Marines of '8th and I'*

by Col. Daniel P. O'Brien
Barracks Commanding Officer

The purpose of this article is to share with you some thoughts and expectations that I have for Marine Barracks, Washington. I am thoroughly enjoying the honor of being assigned here with the outstanding Marines, sailors and civilians serving at the Oldest Post. Every day since Sept. 20 has literally flown by for me!

First, I want you to know that I truly believe that this is a very special place in the fabric of what we are as Marines. Most everyone has heard our Commandant say that the Post is the "Soul of the Marine Corps." Coming here for a visit is nearly a religious experience for our fellow Marines. For them we represent all that is nearly perfect in what we do as Marines. For the American people, "8th and I" represents the best of "soldierly virtue" and military – U.S. Marine – precision.

In the course of our service here at the Post we perform several very special missions. Some of what we do is in direct support of the President of the United States or the Commandant of the Marine Corps. We are the home of two world-class musical organizations. We have responsibility for the primary Distance Education mission for the Marine Corps. We are entrusted with the care of the Battle Color of the Marine Corps. We support numerous high visibility ceremonies and events in and around the nation's capital – and beyond - every day.

While this place is special and the tasks we perform are important, you and I must remember that we are lucky to be here. While performing our assigned missions we prepare ourselves for service in the operating forces of the Corps in our primary Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). Balancing all of that is not an easy task – but it is one that should keep us grounded in the knowledge that we are stewards of this Post while the heart of the Marine Corps is forward deployed and ready to go in harms way.

To help everyone assigned here understand my expectations, I've used some "rules" in my remarks to all hands. My list continues to expand with age – but I ask that you remember these six.

1. Be honest. This applies to your conduct in and out of uniform. It applies to how you communicate with your chain of command, your peers, with the important people in your personal life and with your God. We trust our fellow Marines with complete confidence because we know that we are all in this together.

2. Focus outward. Look for ways that you can solve a

problem, create a positive and productive atmosphere and be a force for good. Don't be that Marine whose focus is inward on his own pain and discomfort and then allows everything he does to be colored by that. Think about the impact of what you do and say before you do it. Take actions that contribute to the positive outcomes that typify everything that we do at Marine Barracks, Washington.

3. Have personal and professional goals and be working to achieve them. Seek to have a balanced life. If you have a spouse and children then you need to be working to make those relationships profitable and successful. We live in one of the richest cultural areas in the world – see as much as you can. Be making progress toward your next promotion or next assignment and know what you need to do to help move your career along.

4. "Win all engagements" speaks to the spirit of attacking everything that we do as an engagement to be won. I don't expect perfection in everything. People – including Marines – do sometimes fall short of the mark. That is part of life. What I do expect though is that we'll never come up short for lack of effort or resolve. We prepare for victory in every contest or else we shouldn't be on the field.

5. "Officers eat last" means that this is an organization in which all leaders look out for the welfare of those in our charge. We take care of our Marines. We treat everyone with the dignity that they have earned. Being senior does not include an entitlement to privilege as much as it involves a responsibility to take care of and nurture those younger Marines who have been entrusted to our care.

6. Have fun! This is an organization with a tradition of excellence and a record of success. We work with good Marines, sailors and civilians who have all volunteered to be here. **IT OUGHT TO BE FUN!**

I also want to quickly address the subject of "hazing." The Commandant has been clear that the only "rites of passage" that we have as Marines are conducted at the two Marine Corps Recruit Depots and at Officers Candidates School. There are no "traditions" that include inflicting physical harm or emotional abuse on younger or more junior Marines. If that has happened here in the past, let's leave that to history and move on.

It has been a great pleasure to meet many of you. I look forward to the remainder of this tour with great excitement and the humility that comes from knowing that we must do our part to continue the legacy of this great Post.

– Semper Fidelis.

Public Affairs Office
Marine Barracks
8th & I Sts. S.E.
Washington, D.C.
20390-5000
(202) 433-4173

Commanding Officer

Col. Daniel P. O'Brien

Sergeant Major

Sgt. Maj. Bryan B. Battaglia

Public Affairs Chief

Gunnery Sgt. Gideon S. Rogers

Layout and Graphic Design

Cpl. Leah A. Cobble

Editors

Cpl. Travis W. Shiflett

Cpl. Nathan A. Tiller

Staff Writer

Lance Cpl. E. Ashley Thomas



Pass in Review is an authorized publication for members of the Armed Forces. It is published 11 times a year by the Marine Barracks Public Affairs Office, Washington, D.C. 20390, and contains information released by Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Armed Forces Information Service, Navy News Service and public affairs offices around the Marine Corps. Contents are not the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Navy, or the United States Marine Corps. All photos are official U.S. Marine Corps photos unless otherwise stated.

On the Cover

Then-Cpl. Matt Britton, rifle inspector and drill master, Silent Drill Platoon, performs at the Marine Corps War Memorial. (Graphic design by Cpl. Leah A. Cobble, photos by Cpl. Travis W. Shiflett and Sgt. Branden P. O'Brien)

Pass in Review

Volume 20

December 2002

Number 18

Departments

CO's Corner.....	2
Local News.....	4
Features.....	17
Newsmakers.....	21
Caption Contest.....	22
Chaplain's Column.....	23

In The News

Change of Command

Colonel Daniel P. O'Brien takes the helm as Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

Page 4



Features

In the Norwegian Woods

The Battle Color Detachment deploys to Oslo, Norway, and performs in the Norwegian Military Tattoo.

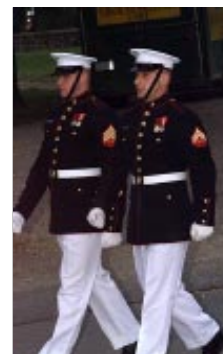
Page 15



Longevity

One "B" Company Marine passes a rare milestone.

Page 14



Marine Barracks changes command

story and photo by Lance Cpl. E. Ashley Thomas
Staff Writer

The former Chief of Staff of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command stepped up as the Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., in a ceremony here Sept. 20, as the battalion bade farewell to then-Col. Richard T. Tryon.

Colonel Daniel P. O'Brien succeeds Tryon, who assumed duties as Executive Officer to the Supreme Allied Commander, Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe, in November.

A native of Holyoke, Mass., O'Brien was commissioned through the Platoon Leaders Class Program upon graduation from the University of Massachusetts in 1975.

After graduating from The Basic School he served as a Platoon Commander in Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, as Regimental Guard Officer, 8th Marines, as Aide-de-Camp for the Assistant Division Commander, 2nd Marine Division and for the Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune. From 1978 to 1979 he was in Okinawa, Japan, as a Rifle Company Executive Officer and briefly as a Company Commander in 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines. After duty as an Officer Selection Officer at Recruiting Station San Francisco, he graduated from Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, Va., in 1983.

He returned to Camp Lejeune in June 1983 for a three-year tour in 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines, where he was the Commanding Officer of Company L and Weapons Company. This tour included two Marine Amphibious Unit deployments and several months ashore for security operations in Beirut, Lebanon.

Colonel O'Brien was the Commanding Officer of Recruiting Station Cleveland from July 1986 until July 1989. He graduated with the highest distinction from the College of Naval Command and Staff at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., in June 1990. He received a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College and also earned a Master of Arts Degree in International Relations from Salve Regina College while in Newport.

From July 1990 until April 1993, O'Brien served at the Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico as a Tactics Instructor, Faculty Advisor and head of the Tactics Division. He next joined the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Pendleton, as the Operations Officer and participated in operations in Somalia. He assumed command of 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, in June 1994. He later served as



Colonel Daniel P. O'Brien receives the Marine Barracks "8th & 1st" battalion guidon from then-Col. Richard T. Tryon during the change of command ceremony here Sept. 20.

Executive Officer, 1st Marine Regiment, from January through June of 1996.

After a tour as a National Security Fellow in the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, O'Brien served as the Fleet Marine Officer of the U.S. Sixth Fleet in Gaeta, Italy, from June 1997 until June 1999. This tour included participation in several joint operations in and around the Balkans. He then served as Military Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs prior to being assigned as the Chief of Staff, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, in May 2001.

His personal awards include: the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with one star, the Meritorious Service Medal with one star, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with one star and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Colonel O'Brien is married to the former Charlene Gilroy from San Jose, Calif., and they have three daughters.

Brigadier General Richard T. Tryon

Marines of the Oldest Post gathered in the Band Hall here Nov. 1 for the frocking ceremony of Brigadier Gen. Richard T. Tryon and a final chance to bid farewell to the former commanding officer and his lady, Diane.

Tryon reported to the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe in Mons, Belgium for duty as Executive Officer to the Commander, who is currently Air Force General Joseph W. Ralston. In February, Tryon will once again work directly with the 32nd Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James L. Jones as he is slated to take over for Ralston as SACEUR. Tryon was selected for the rank of brigadier general earlier in the year and requested to have the frocking ceremony at the hallowed grounds of Marine Barracks where he and his wife have spent the past two years leading the Corps' Oldest Post.



Cpl. Travis W. Shiflett

Brig. Gen. Richard T. Tryon's wife, Diane, congratulates him after his recent frocking ceremony Nov. 1.

Padgett assumes USNA Company command



Captain Spencer L. Padgett receives the guidon from 1st Sgt. Tim L. Mims of Marine Barracks Annapolis, Sept. 19.

*story and photo by Lance Cpl. E. Ashley Thomas
Staff Writer*

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The former logistics officer of the Marine Corps Institute assumed command of Security Forces, Marine Barracks Annapolis, during a small change of command ceremony here Sept. 19.

Captain Spencer L. Padgett succeeds Capt. Dean T. Stouffer, who moves to the Marine Corps Institute as Project Manager, DLTD.

Padgett, a native of Buffalo, N.Y., entered the United States Naval Academy in July 1993 and was commissioned in May 1997. Upon completion of The Basic School and Basic Ground Supply Officer's Course, 2nd Lt. Padgett was assigned to the Second Division Supply Battalion, Second Division Force Service Support Group at Camp Lejuene, N.C. While at the Second Division Supply Battalion, 2nd Lt. Padgett served as the Supply Officer for Combat Service Support Detachment 27 during its participation in Combined Arms Exercises 9 and 10 in 1999.

In January 2000, 1st Lt. Padgett was assigned to Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Support Group 24. He assumed the duties of the MEU Service Support Group Supply Officer and served as liaison officer to the MEU Staff for all logistics requirements. During the MEU's deployment as Landing Force Sixth Fleet in February 1999, Capt. Padgett participated in exercises in Spain, Italy, the Ukraine and Israel, as well as operations in Kosovo and Albania.

Captain Padgett reported to Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., in January 2001 and was assigned to the Marine Corps Institute where he served as logistics officer. Additionally, he has marched on the Marine Barracks parade staff as adjutant for two seasons.

His personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. He is married to the former Melody Spigel of Virginia Beach, Va. They have one son.

LOCAL NEWS

Sergeant Major Battaglia takes his post

by Lance Cpl. E. Ashley Thomas
Staff Writer

The former Battalion Sergeant Major of Weapons Training Battalion, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Va., assumed duties as Barracks Sergeant Major in a ceremony here Nov. 1.

Sergeant Major Bryan B. Battaglia succeeds Sgt. Maj. Ronnie L. Edwards who assumes duties as Sergeant Major, Personal and Family Readiness Division, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Quantico, Va.

Battaglia is a native of New Orleans, La., and joined the Marine Corps during September 1979. Completing basic training and Infantry Training School, Private First Class Battaglia was ordered to Marine Barracks, London, England, for duty as a security guard.

Meritoriously promoted to corporal in November 1981, he was transferred to Company I, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, as a fire team leader. Cpl. Battaglia then attended the 2nd Marine Division Squad Leaders Course, Water Safety Survival Instructor School and Nuclear Biological and Chemical Defense School, and upon completion, was reassigned as a squad leader.

Meritoriously promoted on October 2, 1982, Sgt. Battaglia was moved to Weapons Platoon as the 60mm mortar section leader. Upon completion of various unit deployments he transferred to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., in February 1984 for duty as a drill instructor. Assigned to Company I, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, he also served as a field training instructor and water safety survival instructor until June 1986. Sgt. Battaglia was then ordered to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, as a platoon sergeant. Completing Landing Force Sixth Fleet and Unit Deployment Programs deployment in October 1987, he served as the battalion career planner until August 1988.

Staff Sgt. Battaglia was then relocated to Headquarters, 2nd Marine Regiment, as the regimental career planner. During January 1990, he deployed to Norway and in August 1990 deployed to Southwest Asia.

While deployed, he was meritoriously promoted to gunnery sergeant in December 1990. Upon return from the Persian Gulf War in April 1991, he served as a Company Gunnery Sergeant. He completed the Airborne Parachutist School at Fort Benning, Ga., during this time.

During March 1993, he transferred to the United Kingdom on the Royal Marine Exchange Program where he completed the Royal Marine Commando Course and further served at the Commando Training Centre,



Lance Cpl. E. Ashley Thomas

Sergeant Major Bryan B. Battaglia awaits as Outgoing Sergeant Major, Sgt. Maj. Ronnie L. Edwards, relinquishes the Sword of Office during the post and relief ceremony, Nov. 1.

Lympstone, England. Completing his tour of duty during July 1995 and selected for first sergeant, he was transferred to 2nd Force Service Support Group for duty with Headquarters and Service Battalion.

During October 1996, 1st Sgt. Battaglia deployed with 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in support of the Cuban migrant camps of Joint Task Force 160. Returning in December 1995, he was reassigned as MEU Service Support Group 26 First Sergeant from April 1996 to July 1998. Selected for promotion during March 1998 and returning from deployment shortly thereafter, Sgt. Maj. Battaglia transferred to Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing.

During September 2001, Sgt. Maj. Battaglia was relocated to Weapons Training Battalion, MCCDC, Quantico, Va., as Battalion Sergeant Major and further reassigned during October 2002 to assume duties as Sergeant Major, Marine Barracks 8th & I.

His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with one gold star and the Navy Achievement Medal with two gold stars.

Stepping up to the challenge —

SDP Marines compete for rifle inspection team positions

story and photos by Cpl. Nathan A. Tiller
Editor

To many, Marines are known for their high standards and unmatched levels of performance. However, for the members of The Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, those standards are raised to another degree. For one, appropriately dubbed, "Challenge Day," the marchers of the 24-man platoon strutted their stuff to make an impression on the Marines who eventually selected them for special positions for the 2003 parade season.

Days, weeks and months of practice for these Marines boiled down to a few hours where they performed distinctive drill movements, rifle tosses and unique inspection procedures — all without verbal command.

Corporal David M. Groomes, an inspector for Challenge Day, says getting chosen to take part in the inspection team is quite an honor, even in the already special unit.

"You're looked up to, like a senior Marine," he says. "Basically you're the best of the best of the best."

All the hard work and dedication these Marines show throughout the year guarantees the success of another parade season.



Corporal Felix R. Ramos throws an M1 Garand to **Lance Cpl. Jason H. Market** during tryouts for the inspection teams.

2003 Inspection Teams

Rifle inspector and drillmaster: Sgt. Matt Britton

1st Choice Silver Single: Lance Cpl. Lloyd Wimp

2nd Choice Single: Cpl. Kevin Wilkins

1st Choice Throw-out: Lance Cpl. Scott Hansford

2nd Choice Throw-out: Lance Cpl. Jason Cruce

1st Choice Double: Cpl. Michael McMillian

2nd Choice Double: Cpl. Adalbert Witherill

"Molly" Retires



Cpl. Nathan A. Tiller

Sergeant Chesty XI (right), also known as "Molly," stepped aside as mascot for Marine Barracks Washington D.C., to make way for the new mascot, **Chesty XII** in a ceremony here Nov. 15.

"Molly" was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for duties performed during her enlistment and the numerous parade seasons she has spent representing the Corps and the countless additional duties and commitments she has attended.

LOCAL NEWS

'7th & K'

Construction crews continue to make progress at project site

*by Lance Cpl. E. Ashley Thomas
staff writer*

The Barracks and Band Support Facility building project is beginning to take shape at 7th and 'K' Streets, S.E., as construction crews make progress with the project.

BBGM/Architects & Interiors, together with Coakley & Williams Construction Company, have been working on the complex during the past year.

The new facility will provide office spaces, a rehearsal hall for the United States Marine Corps Band, a parking garage, outdoor recreational area and living quarters for the enlisted Marines of "8th & I."

The annex is scheduled to be completed by December 2003.



Lance Cpl. E. Ashley Thomas

(Looking south from "K" Street) Building contractors make progress on the Barracks and Band Support Facility's foundation at 7th and "K" Streets, S.E.

Marines join local school kids in walkathon

Lance Corporal Blaine O. DeGannes, administration clerk, S-1, Headquarters & Service Company, shares stories and advice during a walkathon for the homeless with Sasha Bruce Public Charter School, Nov. 6. The school, located across from the Barracks on 8th Street prepares the district's urban youth for higher learning while instilling values of community responsibility. The walk started at 9 a.m., and ended at 11:30 a.m., with a break for the students to ask questions and learn facts about homeless people, and some of the situations that may cause people to become homeless.



Cpl. Leah A. Cobble

Transition —

Civilian-run mess halls save Corps money, put Marines in critical OccFields

Public Affairs Office
Marine Barracks

The Barracks received a civilian mess hall crew Oct. 1, courtesy of Sodexo, a food service and management company headquartered in Gaithersburg, Md.

The transition is part of the Corps' effort to save millions of dollars annually and assign more Marines to critical occupational fields throughout the Corps.

Sodexo has subcontracted ServiceSource, a not-for-profit organization based in Alexandria, Va., to manage the Barracks mess hall. The Barracks Marines remaining in the mess hall will continue to contribute to quality assurance and day-to-day operations until Dec. 31, at which point the civilian staff will take over operations.

The 90-day transition period began with the Marines teaching the civilian employees their new jobs. As with any change, adjustments can be a challenge, according to Mess Hall Manager Gunnery Sgt. Marco L. Barnes. "It's been kind of rough, but it's slowly and surely smoothing out," said Barnes.

The next step will be the arrival of



Cpl. Nathan A. Tiller

Gunnery Sgt. Marco L. Barnes, mess hall manager, Headquarters & Service Company, has been working in the mess hall since February 1999.



Cpl. Nathan A. Tiller

Mess attendant Michael R. Thomas sets up the salad bar before the mess hall opens. Thomas has been here since November.

civilian cooks in mid-December. The handful of mess hall Marines who have stayed behind provide quality assurance in the galley and at the same time, prepare for their own individual career transition. Marines in the 3381 Food Service military occupational specialty will either separate from the Marine Corps or move into another occupational field within the Corps.

The Corps is offering Marines whose positions are eliminated several career options. They can take an early retirement if they have met certain career requirements. Lateral moves to different military occupational fields or transfers to domestic and overseas mess halls that are not being privatized are other options.

The long-term goals of mess hall privatization include a reduction of 1,100 spaces within the food service military occupational specialty by the year 2006.

In addition to privatization, the

Marine Corps will accomplish this overall reduction in size of the food service MOS by fielding Mobile Field Kitchens and restructuring food service operations.

"With dwindling resources, we are shaping and redefining the future of military food service programs," said Lt. Col. J.J. Fahey, director, Food Service Program, HQMC.

"Our requirements are fundamentally new and qualitatively different - we are truly breaking new ground in our efforts to improve readiness and our warfighting capability. This contract essentially buys us a readiness capability that we cannot afford to lose," said Fahey.

As for the Barracks' own Gunnery Sgt. Barnes, he said that he'll be sad to leave "8th and I," but he'll take with him many positive memories.

"I'm just glad that myself and other Marines have had the chance to work here," said Barnes.

LOCAL NEWS

by *Cpl. Nathan A. Tiller*
Editor

Every year, Marines get together in celebration of the founding of our Corps. On Nov. 16, the Marines from Marine Barracks, "8th and I," gathered at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel to celebrate 227 years of existence at the 2002 Marine Corps Ball.

The evening started with a cocktail social hour as Marines and their guests made their way through the doors of the hotel and towards the ballroom. Before the start of the official ceremony, Marines caught up with friends from different units and planned for the evening.

Afterwards, everyone took their seats for the ceremonial celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday. The escorts took their place on the dance

floor in anticipation of the arrival of Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. William L. "Spider" Nyland and Barracks Commanding Officer, Col. Daniel P. O'Brien, as the official party. After honors and the presentation of the colors, a select group of Marines were presented the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. The Color Guard and the ball escorts then marched off and Gen. Nyland took the floor as the guest of honor. After his speech, the Marines of "8th and I" presented Gen. Nyland with a sword board decorated with an engraved black widow spider.

Part of every Marine Corps Ball is the reading of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. John A. Lejeune's Birthday Message. After Gen. Lejeune's words were read to the crowd of Marines, the cake-cutting detail took center stage. Col.



Colonel Daniel P. O'Brien, Commanding Officer, presents a piece of birthday cake to the guest of honor, William L. "Spider" Nyland.



The ceremonial cake escorts deliver the cake commemorating the 227th birthday of the Marine Corps to Barracks Commanding Officer, Col. Daniel P. O'Brien.

O'Brien then cut the cake and presented a piece to the oldest and youngest Marines present.

The ceremony wound down as the cake-cutting detail left the floor. At the end of the ceremony, hotel employees came out and served dinner while an in-house disc jockey began to play music. From then until the end of the evening, Marines enjoyed the company of their guests, their dates and their fellow Marines.

"The ball's a great place to just be yourself," said Sgt. Richard D. James, MBW substance abuse Control Officer, S-3. "It doesn't matter if you're a private or a colonel, because at the ball, we're all simply Marines having a good time."



ing Officer, Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., presents a honor, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen.



Written by hand, Gen. Nyland's letter thanks Col. O'Brien and the Marines of Marine Barracks Washington for inviting him to celebrate the Marine Corps' 227th birthday as their guest of honor.



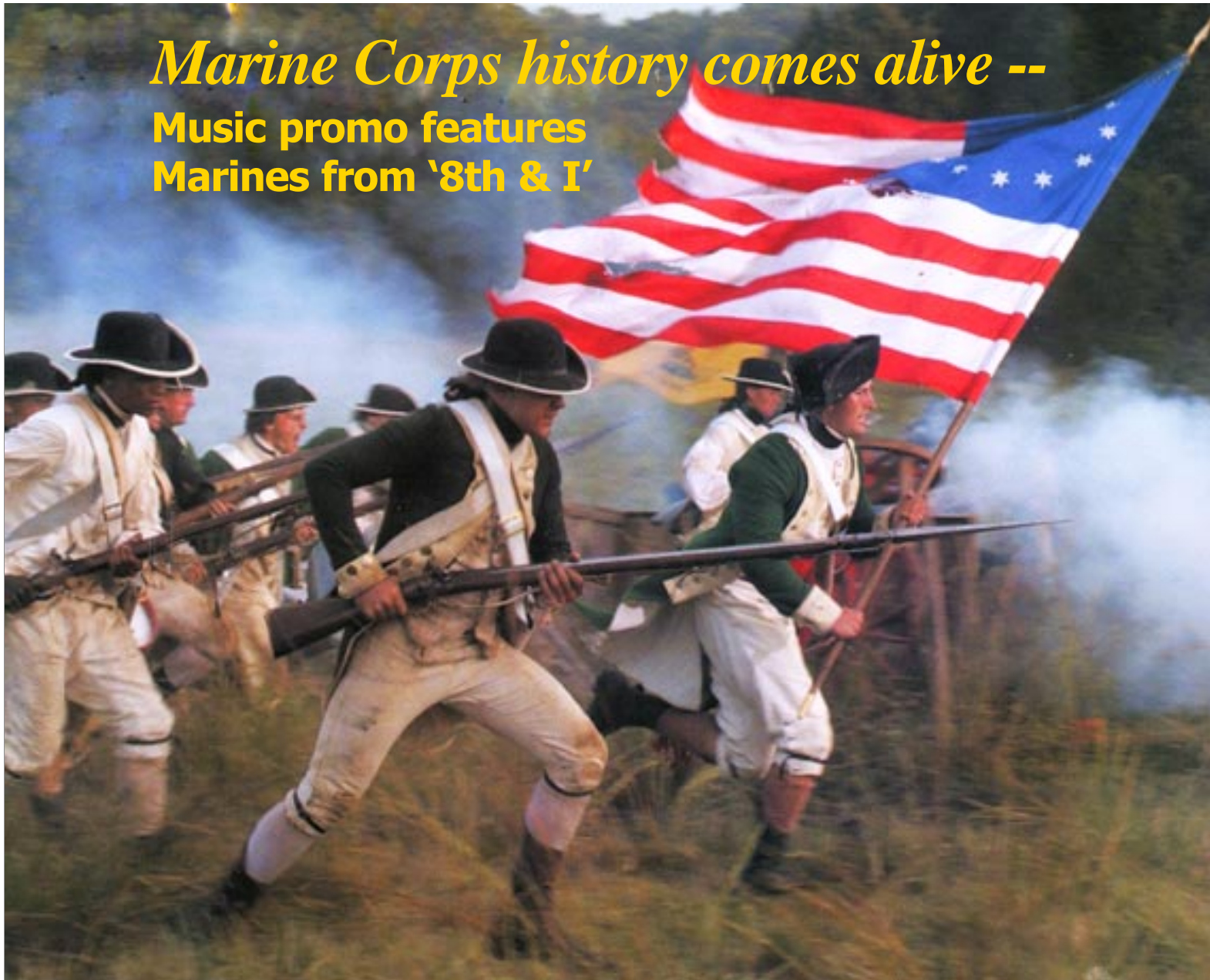
Marine Corps Institute Marines reenact the Iwo Jima flag raising during the ceremony, honoring past Marines and accomplishments.



Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Nyland, bestows the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal to Cpl. Robert W. Oellrich during a portion of the ceremony at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.

Marine Corps history comes alive --

Music promo features Marines from '8th & I'



Lance Cpl. Travis N. Jones, marcher, 2nd platoon, "A" Company (far left) and 1st Lt. William D. Weber, platoon commander, "A" Company (far right) participate in the reenactment of the Continental Marines assault, circa 1775, for the filming of a Marine Corps public service announcement.

story and photo by Sergeant Jimmie Perkins
Marine Corps Recruiting Command

LEESBURG, Va. — On a crisp, clear, late September morning, in the northern most county in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the last battle of the Revolutionary War was fought. Brave young men from all corners of our great land fought side by side in the green, blue and white uniforms of the famed Continental Marines. In swift pursuit of an elusive foe, this small band of brothers engaged in the battle of Belmont Ridge.

The scene played out like a living painting by famed Marine artist Col. Charles Waterhouse. The steady and

disciplined formation of Marines maneuvered on line for the attack. The drum rhythmically beating out the pace of their march and the commands from the officers. The sharp call, "Make ready!" as the muskets come to bear downrange. Then, "FIRE!" and the booming crack of the muskets, belching fire and white smoke down the line. A surge in the line as adrenaline and emotion fueled an all out charge down the slope, the Marines rushing forward in a furious assault. Over the low fence lines, dodging the dust and debris kicked up by the enemy artillery and across the burning, scarred terrain the Marines attacked. Leading the charge, the swirling red, white and blue of a Marine bearing the flag of our young nation.

If not for a simple twist of fate, the deeds of these

Marines would have gone unnoticed. The battle will never be recorded in the lore of the Corps, yet our Marines performed honorably. It will never be found in any books on the Revolutionary War either...why? These Marines were born 200 years after the Revolution. The battle of Belmont Ridge happened September 25, 2002.

In the latest installment of successful television produced for the Marine Corps by J. Walter Thompson (JWT), the Corps' advertising agency, today's Marines bring to life the forefathers of the Marine Corps, the Continental Marines.

The public service announcement (PSA) "Origin" is currently in production and is due out this winter. The main benefactor of the spots will be the Marine Corps Bands whom the PSA highlights.

"This is the first time something like this has been done

for the field bands," said Gunnery Sgt. Michelle Worster, Band Coordinator. "Hopefully when we get done, the field bands, Drum & Bugle Corps and the United States Marine Band will all benefit."

The bands have one of the largest public profiles of any Marine Corps unit, averaging more than 300 performances a year each. Many of these appearances take place when the bands go on tour. This commercial is designed to create awareness of the band's performances.

"The more people we can get out to our appearances the more target audience we reach for the recruiting effort," said Worster.

The Quantico Marine Band and the Drum & Bugle Corps are both featured in the second half of the PSA. In addition the bands will go into the studio to record background music adding another Marine touch to the project.

Corps pays tribute to former Marine Al Lerner



photo courtesy of Cleveland Browns

The Marine Corps Color Guard pays a final tribute to Al Lerner at Cleveland Browns Stadium, Nov. 3.

*story by Cpl. Travis W. Shiflett
Editor*

CLEVELAND — Thousands of football fans, along with the support of Barracks Marines, paid a deserving tribute to a great man and a former Marine at Cleveland Browns Stadium here Nov. 3.

Before the start of the game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the

Cleveland Browns, the Marine Corps Color Guard, a firing squad and a lone bugler from Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., honored Browns owner Al Lerner, who died Oct. 23.

Lerner was a self-made billionaire and native New Yorker who brought the NFL back to Cleveland in 1999.

He served his country in the Marine Corps from 1953 to 1957, and often credited his experiences in the Corps for shaping his life and his unre-

lenting drive to succeed.

At his funeral Oct. 25, former Marine Corps Commandant, Gen. Charles Krulak eulogized Lerner.

The general spoke of his Marine Corps career and how it shaped his life and his business success.

"He absorbed the ethos of the Marine Corps into his soul," said Krulak. "As the old adage says, 'Once a Marine, always a Marine,'" the Krulak added.

'The last to let you down'

Body bearer Sgt. Dika reaches rare milestone

*by Cpl. Travis W. Shiflett
Editor*

It's sad anytime someone attends a funeral at Arlington National Cemetery to see a fellow servicemember being buried, but at the same time it is a moment to honor and cherish. Many people will never attend a funeral at the hallowed grounds, but those privileged enough to pay respect to someone who served this great nation will remember it for the rest of their life.

On Oct. 9, then-Cpl. Agron Dika, Ceremonial Drill School instructor, Body Bearers, "B" Company, worked a typical full honors funeral, only this one had more significance than all the others before. The funeral was Dika's 500th, a milestone that has been reached by few Marines before him.

"Everyone keeps track of how many funerals they have participated in," said Dika. "I have the most of all the body bearers who are here right now and am the first to hit 500 in quite a few years."

The New Jersey native arrived at Marine Barracks in October 1999 straight from the School of Infantry where he was selected to his current billet based on his size and strength. He went through Ceremonial Drill School where he learned the ins and outs of working funerals and other commitments at the Oldest Post. Three years and 500 funerals later, Dika still gets the same proud feeling when burying one of our nation's heroes at Arlington National Cemetery.

"From the very beginning, every funeral has been the same. The family is right there and when taps is played it still hits me just as hard as the very first one I ever did."

BCD performs in Norwegian Military Tattoo



“The Commandant’s Own” march towards the Royal Palace in Oslo, Norway, during the Norwegian Military Tattoo.

story and photo by Cpl. Travis W. Shiflett
Editor

OSLO, Norway – While Americans, especially military members were participating in ceremonies and events marking the one-year anniversary of Sept. 11, the Battle Color Detachment from Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., was taking part in something much different.

For the first time, the BCD deployed here for a weeklong salute to much of the world’s military. Throughout the week, the Marines participated in many different ceremonies, concerts and parades, with the Norwegian Military Tattoo culminating the events. The tattoo is held biennially and is attended with much fanfare by thousands of spectators, including dignitaries from many of the different participating nations.

The Marines arrived Sept. 10. They unpacked their gear and had just enough time to rest before preparing for the week’s rehearsals and ceremonies. Each day the different elements of the BCD performed at different functions throughout the Scandinavian city.

The first commitment of the week was at the Concert Hall of Norway. The “Commandant’s Own” United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps opened the concert with a stirring rendition of “Stars and Stripes Forever” as the Silent Drill Platoon and Marine Corps Color Guard waited for their chance to close out the show later that evening.

The following day, military units from nine different countries marched throughout the city during the street parade, led by His Majesty the King’s Guard. The parade ended with a musical performance in front of the Royal Palace overlooking the city.

The week closed with three performances at the military tattoo held in the Oslo Spectrum. The Spectrum was packed for every show as the crowd clapped their hands and stomped their feet along with every song by the Drum and Bugle Corps and sat in awe as the SDP executed their precise drill movements.

“The land of the Midnight Sun” deployment to Norway was a first for the Battle Color Detachment, but if the buzz created by their performances is any indication, the Marines of the Oldest Post will surely be invited back again.

FEATURES

New York celebrates Veterans' Day - Marine Corps Style



Colonel Timothy W. Foley, Director of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, leads his Marines during one of their many patriotic songs at New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

*story and photos by Gunnery Sgt. Tim McGough
New York Public Affairs*

NEW YORK — Veterans' Day here was celebrated in style — Marine Corps style.

The city hosted Marines from around the country to take part in ceremonies, celebrations and performances. Veteran organizations from around New York and New Jersey proudly marched up Fifth Avenue in the annual Veterans Day Parade.

Although Veterans Day is for all American veterans it seemed like the Corps "cornered the market" from the Bronx to the Battery. It was an all out Marine blitz on the Big Apple and the city knew it.

The city and the nation were entertained by the precision rifle moves of the Silent Drill Team on the Today Show. They then gave two more performances at Rockefeller Center. Marine Gen. Peter Pace, Vice Chairman for the Joint Chiefs of Staff opened the New York Stock Exchange, which paused at 11 a.m., for two minutes of silence to remember veterans from the revolutionary war to today. The "President's Own" United States Marine Band gave a standing room only performance at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

Everywhere a Marine was in the city, he or she was thanked. Rounds of applause and praise were given to

every rank from private to general. Old veterans asked and asked again where they could sign up for another hitch.

One special stop Gen. Pace made was at "Ground Zero." He was escorted to the 10th floor of 2 World Financial Center where he and his wife overlooked the hallowed ground.

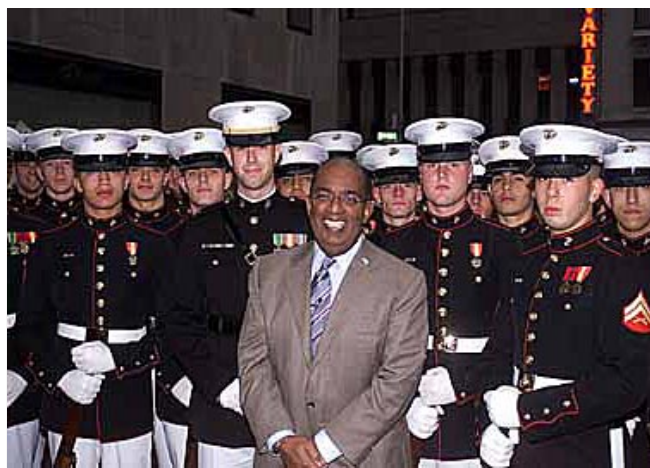
As the entourage was leaving, the general went back one more time to honor the fallen, injured and all the rescue and recovery workers with a moment of silence.

He then traveled up town to meet his son, Capt. Peter Pace, Silent Drill Platoon commander, and to watch the unit drill with perfect precision, wowing everyone in the crowd with fixed

bayonets.

Speeches were made, telling tales of battles won, friends lost, and how the Marines have kept America free for 227 years.

It will be a day not long forgotten. Why? Because every year on November 11th all Americans take time to remember Veterans' Day. If they do not, a veteran usually reminds them.



Marines from the Silent Drill Team take a break before their next performance on the Today Show with the show's weatherman Al Roker. The team gave two performances along with performing for the show at Rockefeller Center.

New family housing on the horizon

Staff Sgt. Cindy Fisher
Headquarters Marine Corps

Public-private venture is the wave of the future for military family housing, and the Marine Corps is leading from the front in this initiative.

PPV partners the Corps with private companies in order to provide quality military family housing in a more timely manner. This military housing privatization initiative is authorized by Congressional legislation. The National Defense Authorization Act of fiscal year 1996 authorizes Department of Defense agencies to work with private developers to meet critical housing needs nationwide.

In the past, military housing—often considered a low priority when compared to training issues—was managed and maintained by the Corps. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James L. Jones, expressed a different approach at the Oct. 15, 2001, official opening ceremony for the Camp Pendleton, Calif., DeLuz Housing Area, site of the Marine Corps' first PPV project.

"We have migrated from a policy of readiness which was defined in very narrow terms. Does this Marine have his rifle, his pack, his helmet, his ammunition, his food?" said Gen. Jones. "We didn't really worry too much in the 60s and 70s about the family—but things are different now."

The Corps now understands the equal importance of caring for the Marine and the Marine's family, and is dedicated to improving living conditions, the general added.

The Situation:

In recent years, the quality of life in military-managed housing areas has deteriorated for a variety of reasons. On many bases, housing units were built about the same time as the installation infrastructure. Several housing areas on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton have existed since the late 40s and early 50s. At MCB Quantico, Va., the average age of homes is 55 to 60 years and some structures even date back to 1918.

In 2000, 63 percent of the Corps' housing units were more than 30 years old and 53 percent were considered inadequate, according to Karen Ayers, head of Housing Management, Facilities Branch, Installations and Logistics, Headquarters Marine Corps. As homes age, they require extensive repairs or renovations. This is expensive and creates a maintenance backlog. Consequently, base housing managers struggle to maintain units at an acceptable living standard.

In a 2000 report on housing challenges, Ayers said the estimated cost to fix the problems corpswide is \$1.5 billion. In the meantime, families residing in base housing live in homes plagued by maintenance problems like leaky plumbing, peeling paint and cracked floors.

A long-time proponent for better military housing in Southern California, Ron Packard, the former representative for California's 48th District, toured some of the older housing areas of Camp Pendleton. "They were deplorable," Packard said during the DeLuz Housing Area opening ceremony. "It was unfortunate that we were asking our men and women who are serving their country to even live in those conditions."

In addition to the problems inherent with older homes, many installations simply don't have enough housing units. Often, service members must find temporary housing in surrounding civilian communities while waiting for homes to become available in base housing. The average wait for military housing is 18 months at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif. MCAS Miramar is one of several military installations in the San Diego area, which is home to more than 38,000 active-duty military families.

Often, service members living in civilian communities incur living expenses greater than the basic allowance for housing provided them by the Corps.

Poor and insufficient housing can have a negative impact on the morale of a unit, Packard said. Marines concerned about their families' living conditions have difficulty concentrating on their jobs.

"Dedication to duty is compromised when (service members) are worried about family and home. If things are alright at home, things will be alright in the field," said Packard who served as an officer in the U.S. Navy Dental Corps in the late 50s.

The commandant also expressed concern about the negative impact housing issues have on retention efforts. "Not only do we worry about families, we understand that a Marine who has a family will not likely stay a Marine for very long if the family is not taken care of," Gen. Jones said. "In today's all volunteer force, Marines will vote with their feet if we don't meet their aspirations and those of their families."

Correcting these housing issues has become a long-term project. However, budget constraints combined with aging housing units and a maintenance backlog make it difficult for the Corps to provide high-quality housing to Marines and their families.

(continued on page 18)

NEWSGRAM

The Solution:

In the continuing effort to correct this situation, the Corps has turned to the private sector to build and manage military housing.

The Corps is joining with private companies, usually limited liability companies, to build more and better housing for the same money. The Department of the Navy uses a condensed acquisition process that minimizes the time, effort and money interested parties must put into the process. This helps ensure the most highly qualified private company, investor or development teams with the Marine Corps.

PPVs are an "application of governmental resources in a competitive environment," Gen. Jones said. Ventures will focus on privatizing the replacement, renovation, maintenance and operation of existing government housing. Private companies then bear the cost for building, renovating, maintaining and managing family housing communities.

This partnership allows homes to be renovated or constructed faster, Ayers said. "Private companies can get construction loans based on the expected rental income from Marines' BAH. This reduces the up-front cost to the Corps of fixing housing."

The Marine Corps will also require private companies to set aside funds for short- and long-term renovations, Ayers said. This "will ultimately ensure homes remain in

good condition over the life of the projects."

The resulting PPV-managed housing areas won't be operated in the same manner as base housing. "The PPV program is managed like a rental property is out in town," said Maj. Craig S. McDonald, deputy director of Family Housing, Camp Pendleton. Under PPV, service members sign leases and make monthly payments through allotments equal to the Basic Allowance for Housing for that area. Since BAH covers rent and normal utility usage, service members should have no out-of-pocket expense, Ayers said.

While private companies manage and maintain family housing areas, the Marine Corps will remain a participant in all key management decisions as a member of Limited Liability Company Boards.

As a safeguard, the Marine Corps leases the land to be used. This prevents the loss of land or units if a company defaults on a loan. The company cannot take out new debt against the project without the Corps' consent. The Corps' consent will also be required for expenditures over specified amounts.

Several PPV projects are already underway and more are scheduled for the future. The first PPV contract was awarded to the Hunt Corporation in November 2000 for DeLuz Housing.

The PPV family housing program at Camp Pendleton
(continued on page 20)

"Village People"



Cpl. Nathan A. Tiller

"8th & 1st" Marines were subjected to the mesmerizing talents of Master Sgt. Bryan McDaniel, Nov. 19, during a safety brief in the band hall. Twenty Marines were brought to the stage and put into a deep trance. While under hypnosis they reverted to their childhoods, turned into a '70s Disco group, and acted out various scenarios that left the audience doubled over with laughter. "I don't even remember anything that happened," said Lance Cpl. Alexia Perkins, Drum and Bugle Corps. "I'm going off of what other people tell me I did." The program was part of a yearly safety brief given to ensure Marines are safe as they travel during the holidays.

Wreath-laying ceremonies commemorate prices paid

(right) "A" and "B" Companies converge as they descend the steps of the Marine Corps War Memorial during the annual honors ceremony Nov. 9.

(below) 28th Commandant, retired General P.X. Kelley, Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James L. Jones; Commanding Officer, Col. Daniel P. O'Brien, and the Marine Barracks Sergeant Major, Sgt. Maj. Brian B. Battaglia salute the pass in review at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va.



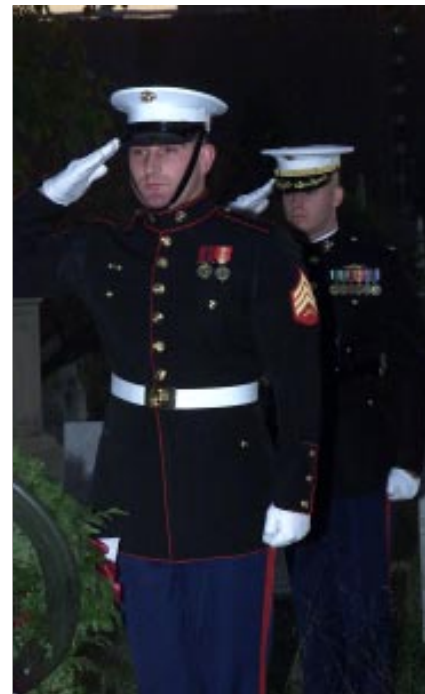
Cpl. Nathan A. Tiller



Cpl. Nathan A. Tiller



Cpl. Nathan A. Tiller



Cpl. Travis W. Shiflett

(above) Sergeant Agron Dika and Maj. Robert B. Babcock salute the gravesite of former commandant Archibald Henderson "the grand old man of the Marine Corps" Nov. 9. Henderson served 38 years as the 5th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

(left) Sergeant Major Battaglia, Col. O'Brien, Gen. Jones and retired Marine General P.X. Kelley approach the Marine Corps War Memorial as part of the symbolic wreathlaying ceremony to commemorate the Marine Corps birthday.

Oyster Bowl



A muddy field and some questionable calls by the referees could not detract from the fierce pigskin battle between two teams of officers in the 2002 Oyster Bowl. The officers of "8th and I" play for blood and bragging rights in this traditional fall classic. This year, the speed of the Scarlet Team ("B" Company, the Marine Corps Institute and the U.S. Naval Academy) was just too much for the Gold Team (Headquarters and Service Company, "A" Company, the Drum and Bugle Corps and the U.S. Marine Band). The Scarlet brought home the Gold, 20-7. While the game started slowly with a lot of ground plays, the Scarlet Team began calling for air support, and "bracketed" until targets were hit, leaving Gold Team defenders shaking their heads in frustration. (photos by Cpl. Travis W. Shiflett)

is building new housing units and renovating old ones faster than the previous military-construction process, which took a minimum of five years to complete, McDonald said.

Camp Pendleton residents began moving into the first 200 completed homes in October 2001. Once completed, this project will include 712 units.

The ribbon was cut June 26 on the joint Navy and Marine Corps project at Belle Chase Naval Air Station, New Orleans. The housing area features 512 new townhouse units. Once completed, the \$73 million project will have 935 units.

Another joint Navy and Marine Corps project opened in San Diego in August. Additional projects are planned for MCB Camp Pendleton and MCAS Miramar. Future projects are also planned for MCB Quantico; Stewart, N.Y.; MCAS Yuma, Ariz.; MCB Hawaii; MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C.; and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.; to name a few.

"I think by 2005, about 95 percent of our family construction ... will be PPVs. So it's already the way of the future," Gen. Jones said at the opening of one PPV project. These housing-privatization initiatives reduce the worries of military service members whose families live within

base communities, he added.

"(The service member) knows, should he be deployed, his family is in a safe and secure house as well as a residence that is well maintained," McDonald said.

The Benefits:

What this means to service members is better homes and shorter waiting lists.

Through PPV projects, better homes can be constructed or renovated faster, especially in areas with critical housing needs, according to housing management officials at HQMC.

PPV housing areas will showcase well-landscaped, pedestrian friendly sites, Ayers said.

These "better homes" will include functional floor plans, usually larger than military-constructed homes. Home designs incorporate significant storage space and one- or two-car garages. Most will also have town home architecture and layouts as well as fenced yards.

Residents already living in PPV-managed housing areas are please with their new homes. "I love it. It has so much space. God, it's beautiful and I can't complain at all," said Cpl. Blanca Hernandez, I Marine Expeditionary Force, of her home in the DeLuz Housing Area.

When you see these Marines, congratulate them on their recent promotions.

H&S Company

SSgt. Jorge J. Delosrios
 SSgt. Michael D. Johnson
 Sgt. Daniel J. Allen
 Sgt. Kelvin M. Avelar
 Sgt. Jorge Careaga
 Sgt. Roberto Dominguez
 Sgt. Patrick D. Dunphy
 Sgt. Robert J. Frank
 Sgt. Charles M. Hameline
 Sgt. Wesley T. Hashimoto
 Sgt. Brent R. Hazelwood
 Sgt. Chad M. Hoakison
 Sgt. Stephen Long
 Sgt. Clifton L. Maxwell
 Sgt. Brian V. Mohr
 Sgt. Charles M. Poe
 Sgt. Owein M. Ramirez
 Sgt. Matthew A. Terrence
 Sgt. Jeremy Whitney
 Cpl. Brandon M. Cooper
 Cpl. Jeremie N. Dellapenta
 Cpl. Lonnie Fullen Jr.
 Cpl. Leon W. McCook
 Cpl. Joseph W. Neuschaefer
 Cpl. William A. Seamann
 Cpl. Jeremy E. Wheeler
 Cpl. Geoffrey Yazzie
 Lance Cpl. Andrew M. Brown
 Lance Cpl. Ryan A. Bates
 Lance Cpl. Christopher S. Burt
 Lance Cpl. Dylan T. Chambers
 Lance Cpl. Stephen R. Clark
 Lance Cpl. Ian A. Denu
 Lance Cpl. Ashley W. Drake
 Lance Cpl. Richard W. Gusner
 Lance Cpl. Justin S. Hovis

Lance Cpl. Brett L. Johnson
 Lance Cpl. Adam J. Nyback
 Lance Cpl. Caleb F. Pleasants
 Lance Cpl. Roger D. Rice
 Lance Cpl. Brian C. Roby
 Lance Cpl. Clark B. Staller
 Lance Cpl. Chad P. Weber

MCI Company

Sgt. Lester Parker II
 Cpl. Nicole A. Albanese
 Cpl. Garth R. Pasco
 Cpl. Jeremy K. Vallo
 Lance Cpl. Anthony J. Carter
 Lance Cpl. Carlos A. Chiribao
 Lance Cpl. Francine Lowe
 Lance Cpl. Oscar Oland
 Lance Cpl. Melvin J. Ponce
 Lance Cpl. Ryan A. Wilson
 Pfc. Dionte A. Newton

"A" Company

Cpl. Trystan W. McKeel
 Lance Cpl. Geoffrey A. Bivins
 Lance Cpl. Jeremy A. Rapp

"B" Company

Sgt. Jarrod T. LaRock
 Cpl. Joseph J. Ceremuga III

USNA Company

Cpl. Marshall G. Cleveland
 Cpl. Gregory J. Kennedy
 Lance Cpl. Francis W. Wolf III
 Lance Cpl. Nathaniel J. Florent
 Lance Cpl. Jemery Gray

Security Company

SSgt. Kenneth C. Lovell III
 Sgt. Nathan S. Campbell
 Sgt. Jason E. Foskuhl

Sgt. Ty R. Hultman
 Sgt. Aaron R. Perry
 Sgt. Edward T. Syc
 Sgt. Joshua N. Tretter
 Cpl. Jordan L. Antonelli
 Cpl. Todd A. Carlson
 Cpl. Harold E. Delashmit
 Cpl. Zebulon R. Emery
 Cpl. Matthew C. Klouda
 Cpl. Matthew S. Rahn
 Cpl. Michael D. Rossi
 Cpl. John Steffen
 Cpl. Christopher S. Warp
 Cpl. Sennet J. Wiggins II

D&B Company

SSgt. Michael D. Coleman
 SSgt. Brian P. Gaston
 SSgt. James D. McCaughey Jr.
 SSgt. Jamie M. Bennett
 Sgt. Paul L. Croom
 Cpl. Frederick R. Peacos
 Cpl. Joseph Stewart
 Cpl. Ronald J. Carpenter Jr.
 Cpl. Alec M. Gibson
 Cpl. Tiffany Wade
 Cpl. Marcus B. Cook

WHCA Company

Sgt. Matthew A. Barton
 Sgt. Adam D. Gleave
 Sgt. Ryan B. Schaafsma
 Sgt. Jeromy L. Smith
 Sgt. Andrew S. Thornhill
 Cpl. Shamn M. Clinger
 Cpl. Jeffery J. Foret

To announce a new birth in your family, e-mail your rank, full name, family information and work section to cobblela@mbw.usmc.mil.



MCCS STAFF

MCCS Director , Russell Pantleo	202-433-2338
Operations , Gunnery Sgt. Robert Manson	202-433-2570
Finance , Pam Carroll	202-433-2353
Food & Hospitality , Frank Balduck	202-433-2366
Semper Fit , Jamie Morris	202-433-4295

For private parties, weddings, promotions and wetdowns

CAPTION CONTEST

A PICTURE'S WORTH ...

The Pass In Review staff is proud to continue the "Caption Contest." This page highlights the "lighter" side of life at Marine Barracks "8th & I."

The contest gives our readers the opportunity to offer their feedback. The photo on the right desperately needs a caption.

Readers may submit their caption to our photo editor via e-mail -- cobblela@mbw.usmc.mil or drop off printed captions in the "Caption Contest Box" located in the Public Affairs Office.

Congratulations go to "A" Company Commander, Capt. Graham R. Grafton, for his winning caption to our photo below!

Disclaimer: Contents are not the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Navy, or the United States Marine Corps.



Cpl. Nathan A. Tiller



"You can fight, or surf ... For honor, Sir!"

"The pressure of command apparently briefly overwhelmed our former commanding officer. Then-Col. Tryon was found wandering Center Walk babbling movie quotes in the final days of his command. A Guard Section Marine, who subdued the wayward CO, thought he looked like Robert Duvall's character, Col. Kilgore, from the Vietnam War classic, "Apocalypse Now." An H&S Company Marine who witnessed the takedown thought the CO looked more like a character from the tediously long film, "Gettysburg." Both Marines agreed that a vacation, maybe to Europe, was all the future Brigadier General needed to gather his faculties and "drive on."

Keeping the faith - God, country, Corps

*Lt. Ted L. Williams
Barracks Chaplain*

Editor's note: This invocation was delivered at the Barracks' Marine Corps Ball, Nov. 15, in the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.

Eternal Father,

We have gathered this evening, as we have many times in the past two weeks to dedicate, celebrate, and commemorate the 227th anniversary of the founding of this nation's premier force in readiness, a service second to none. The United States Marine Corps.

Tonight, however, we do not gather to march, host, or perform for some other group or organization, tonight we gather as family, Marine Barracks "8th & I" family, to celebrate our Corps' beginnings, and to reflect and remember those who have served and sacrificed for something greater than themselves. This is our time to remember.

Two hundred twenty-seven years ago a group of individuals met in a small tavern in Philadelphia. From this humble beginning they could not see the future brother- and sister hood of warriors and the legacy they would forge on the anvil of hard experience and fanned by the heat of battle.

We pray that you would bless our time together this evening. May it be a time of camaraderie and of fellowship.

We also would not forget our fellow Marines who are deployed around the world standing post as we gather around the table tonight. Keep them and all of us under your watchful care.

Guard our Corps from enemies without and from within. May we be found "Semper Fidelis" always faithful to you, to our country, and to our Corps! For it's in Your name we pray.

Amen.

“Let it snow!”



Cpl. Nathan A. Tiller

Sergeant David Toothman, bugler, Drum & Bugle Corps, plays “To the Color” as snow blankets the Parade Deck, Dec. 5.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
MARINE BARRACKS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20390-5000